

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 1-19. Please add new Claims 20-45. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. – 19. (Canceled)
20. (New) A billiard cue shaft comprising:
a round tapered tubular shaft having a front end and a back end, the shaft having a continuously increasing wall thickness from a thin wall at the front end to a thick wall at the back end, the shaft being made of fibers disposed in a binder.
21. (New) The billiard cue shaft of Claim 20 wherein the fibers are carbon fibers and the binder is an epoxy.
22. (New) The billiard cue shaft of Claim 20 further comprising a filler in an interior volume of the round tapered tubular shaft.
23. (New) The billiard cue shaft of Claim 22 wherein the filler is a resilient plastic foam.
24. (New) The billiard cue shaft of Claim 22 wherein the filler substantially fills an interior volume of the round tapered tubular shaft.
25. (New) The billiard cue shaft of Claim 20 wherein the round tapered tubular shaft comprises a front half of a billiard cue.
26. (New) The billiard cue shaft of Claim 20 wherein the round tapered tubular shaft comprises a back half of a billiard cue.

27. (New) The billiard cue shaft of Claim 20 wherein the wall thickness is between 0.010 inches and 0.020 inches at the front end and increases to at least 0.050 inches at the back end.
28. (New) The billiard cue shaft of Claim 20 wherein the wall thickness is between 0.020 inches and 0.030 inches at the front end and increases to at least 0.070 inches at the back end.
29. (New) The billiard cue shaft of Claim 20 wherein the wall thickness is between 0.030 inches and 0.040 inches at the front end and increases to at least 0.090 inches at the back end.
30. (New) The billiard cue shaft of Claim 20 wherein the wall thickness is between 0.050 inches and 0.070 inches at the front end and increases to at least 0.100 inches at the back end.
31. (New) The billiard cue shaft of Claim 20 wherein the wall thickness is between 0.070 inches and 0.090 inches at the front end and increases to at least 0.120 inches at the back end.
32. (New) The billiard cue shaft of Claim 20 wherein the wall thickness is between 0.090 inches and 0.110 inches at the front end and increases to at least 0.140 inches at the back end.
33. (New) A billiard cue shaft comprising:
a round tapered tubular shaft having a front end and a back end, the shaft including a layer being made of fibers disposed in a binder, the layer having a continuously increasing wall thickness from a thin wall at the front end to a thick wall at the back end.

34. (New) The billiard cue shaft of Claim 33 wherein the fibers are carbon fibers and the binder is an epoxy.
35. (New) The billiard cue shaft of Claim 33 further comprising a filler in an interior volume of the round tapered tubular shaft.
36. (New) The billiard cue shaft of Claim 35 wherein the filler is a resilient plastic foam.
37. (New) The billiard cue shaft of Claim 35 wherein the filler substantially fills an interior volume of the round tapered tubular shaft.
38. (New) The billiard cue shaft of Claim 33 wherein the round tapered tubular shaft comprises a front half of a billard cue.
39. (New) The billiard cue shaft of Claim 33 wherein the round tapered tubular shaft comprises a back half of a billard cue.
40. (New) The billiard cue shaft of Claim 33 wherein the layer being made of fibers disposed in a binder has a layer thickness between 0.010 inches and 0.020 inches at the front end and increases to at least 0.050 inches at the back end.
41. (New) The billiard cue shaft of Claim 33 wherein the layer being made of fibers disposed in a binder has a layer thickness between 0.020 inches and 0.030 inches at the front end and increases to at least 0.070 inches at the back end.
42. (New) The billiard cue shaft of Claim 33 wherein the layer being made of fibers disposed in a binder has a layer thickness between 0.030 inches and 0.040 inches at the front end and increases to at least 0.090 inches at the back end.

43. (New) The billiard cue shaft of Claim 33 wherein the layer being made of fibers disposed in a binder has a layer thickness between 0.050 inches and 0.070 inches at the front end and increases to at least 0.100 inches at the back end.
44. (New) The billiard cue shaft of Claim 33 wherein the layer being made of fibers disposed in a binder has a layer thickness between 0.070 inches and 0.090 inches at the front end and increases to at least 0.120 inches at the back end.
45. (New) The billiard cue shaft of Claim 33 wherein the layer being made of fibers disposed in a binder has a layer thickness between 0.090 inches and 0.110 inches at the front end and increases to at least 0.140 inches at the back end.